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*Deratization at Algiers—Rat fleas.*

The following is taken from the *Bulletin Bimensuelle*, Algiers, April 30:

*Algiers.*—April 15–30: Rodents taken by the maritime sanitary service, 580; examined by the laboratory of health, 114; result, negative. Classification of rats: *Mus norvegicus*, 455; *Mus rattus*, 50; *Mus alexandrinus*, 0; *Mus musculus*, 75.

*Rat fleas determined.*—*Pulex cheopis* on *Mus norvegicus*, 4; on *Mus rattus*, 27. *Ctenopsylla musculi* on *Mus norvegicus*, 21; on *Mus rattus*, 12. *Ceratophyllus* on *Mus rattus*, 27.

## BELGIAN KONGO.

*Report from Boma—Sleeping sickness—Measures to prevent spread inadequate.*

The following is received from Consul-General Handley, under date of April 10:

## SLEEPING SICKNESS IN BELGIAN KONGO.

To check the progress of this terrible scourge in the Kongo is an important and difficult problem. While the disease has been known to exist in various forms for the last 60 or more years on the west coast of Africa, it was not until the opening up of the Kongo by Stanley's expedition and other agencies that the disease was carried on beyond Leopoldville and to the upper reaches of the river, from which it rapidly spread to all parts of the Kongo basin, making a special nidus in the Katanga and Kasai districts in the east and south, the Ituri forests on the northeast, and along the Aruwimi and Kwango rivers. While these locations are the center of infection, there is probably not a district in the whole of the Kongo that is entirely exempt from the disease.

The matter is becoming very urgent to those who take an interest in the commercial development of Africa, as the spread of the disease is attaining such proportions as may almost end in the depopulation of the Kongo basin and the Uganda Protectorate, while the extension of the malady into British Central Africa and the Egyptian Sudan is also a matter of concern.

The area of sleeping sickness seems to be limited to the range of one or more species of tsetse fly that frequent parts of Central Africa where there are heavy rainfalls and abundant vegetation.

The fly which conveys the trypanosomes causing the disease has at present a range extending from the Senegal and Gambia to the Bahr-al-Ghazal, the eastern shore of the Victoria Nyanza, and the west coast of Lake Rudolf up to the river Amo. Southward it apparently covers the whole Kongo basin up to Lake Tanganyika and the Zambezi watershed. Benguela is probably the southernmost limit of sleeping sickness on the Angola coast.

The general appearance of the tsetse fly is not unlike the ordinary house fly found in the United States. Its color is darkish brown. The veins of the wings are brown, and the back of the abdomen is blackish brown. When at rest it is easily distinguished from the